



# **Children of Color in the Indiana Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems**

Identifying Overrepresentation & Disproportionality



# Introduction

- “Disproportionality of children of color is the result of multiple disadvantages that are social, political, economic and attitudinal in nature.”
- “However, no significant racial differences in the incidence of maltreatment were found in the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS) for NIS-2 or NIS-3...”

(Casey Family Programs: Breakthrough Series Collaborative: Reducing Disproportionality and Disparate Outcomes for Children and Families of Color in the Child Welfare System).



# History of Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC)

- What's the situation in Indiana?
  - Indiana vs. USA numbers
  - Indiana is different
- What causes the problem?
  - Poverty
  - Uniqueness of racial/ethnic groups
- Why a Committee?
  - Recommendation 7 from the Indiana Commission on Abused & neglected children
  - Solution focused



# History of Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC)

- Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC) had its first meeting on November 12, 2004
- Representatives from the state's public and private child welfare and juvenile justice systems



# Scope of Work

## Indiana Disproportionality Committee

- Children of color are overrepresented and often disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- The committee will study disproportionality and recommend actions to eliminate disparities.



# Scope of Work

## Indiana Disproportionality Committee

- **VISION:** Children of ALL races and ethnicities are equitably served by Indiana's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- **MISSION:** Create equality within the Indiana child welfare and juvenile justice systems and equalize the proportion of children of color in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems with their percentage of the overall population.

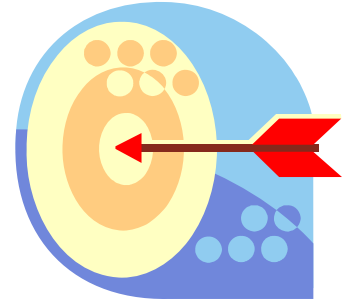


## Scope of Work

### Indiana Disproportionality Committee

- **GOAL:** By the end of 2006 Indiana will have developed, communicated and initiated the implementation of a written, sustainable plan to reduce disproportional representation and disparities in outcomes for children of color within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

# Objectives



- Research issues of Disproportionality and overrepresentation;
- Increase awareness that Indiana has disproportional representation of children in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services;
- Training of all public and private professionals who work with children and families;



## Objectives cont.

- Promote a service delivery agenda that addresses disproportional issues;
- Promote public policies in the state that addresses disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice services.





## **Purpose of Presentation: To Raise Awareness**

- Define terminology
- What research says about overrepresentation & disproportionality
- Share state data
- Identify current Indiana efforts
- Engage in dialogue for possible solutions

# **Defining and Understanding the Terminology**





# Overrepresentation

**“...particularly in reference to African American children has traditionally been used to define the high numbers of children of color in the child welfare system that are larger than their population in the general population”**

(Addressing disproportionality in the child welfare system: Defining the issue, 2002, retrieved 04/22/05 from the World Wide Web <http://www.cwla.org/articles/cv0211minorities.htm> ).



# Disproportionality

**“...refers to a situation in which a particular racial/ethnic group of children are represented ...at a higher percentage than other racial/ethnic groups”**

(Addressing disproportionality in the child welfare system: Defining the issue, 2002, retrieved 04/22/05 from the World Wide Web <http://www.cwla.org/articles/cv0211minorities.htm> ).



# Prevention

**“...includes establishing those conditions in society that enhance the opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to achieve positive fulfillment”**

(Barker, R.L.,1999, *The social work dictionary*. Washington, DC: NASW, pp. 374-375)



# Foster Care

**“...planned, goal-directed service for children who cannot live with their birth families for some period of time. Children in foster care may live with unrelated foster parents, with relatives, with families who plan to adopt them, or in group homes or residential care centers”**

(From The Child Welfare League of America, Glossary of Terms, <http://www.cwla.org>, 04/20/2006)

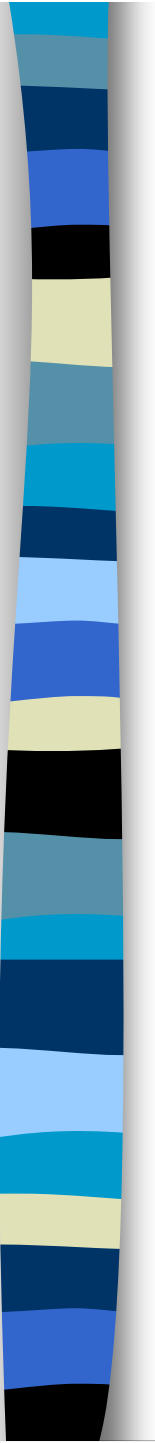


# Out-of-Home Care

**“The most common types of out-of-home care are family foster care, kinship care, therapeutic (or treatment) foster care, and residential group care”**

(From The Child Welfare League of America, Glossary of Terms, <http://www.cwla.org>, 04/20/2006)



- 
- **What do these terms mean to you?**
  - **What do these definitions look like in your organization?**



# Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare System's primary purpose has been to care for children who are not receiving adequate treatment in the care of their parents or guardians, which includes children who are abused and neglected.
- Child Abuse or Neglect refers to a child who is alleged to be in need of services as defined in Indiana Code 36-6-4-3, which defines a Child in Need of Services (CHINs).



# Juvenile Justice System

The juvenile justice system grew out of the criminal justice system as a concept of rehabilitation through individualized justice.



In most states the juvenile court has original jurisdiction over all youth charged with a law violation who are below the age of 18 at the time of offense (Bilchik, 1999, pp. 2 & 9).

(<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/178995.pdf>.)

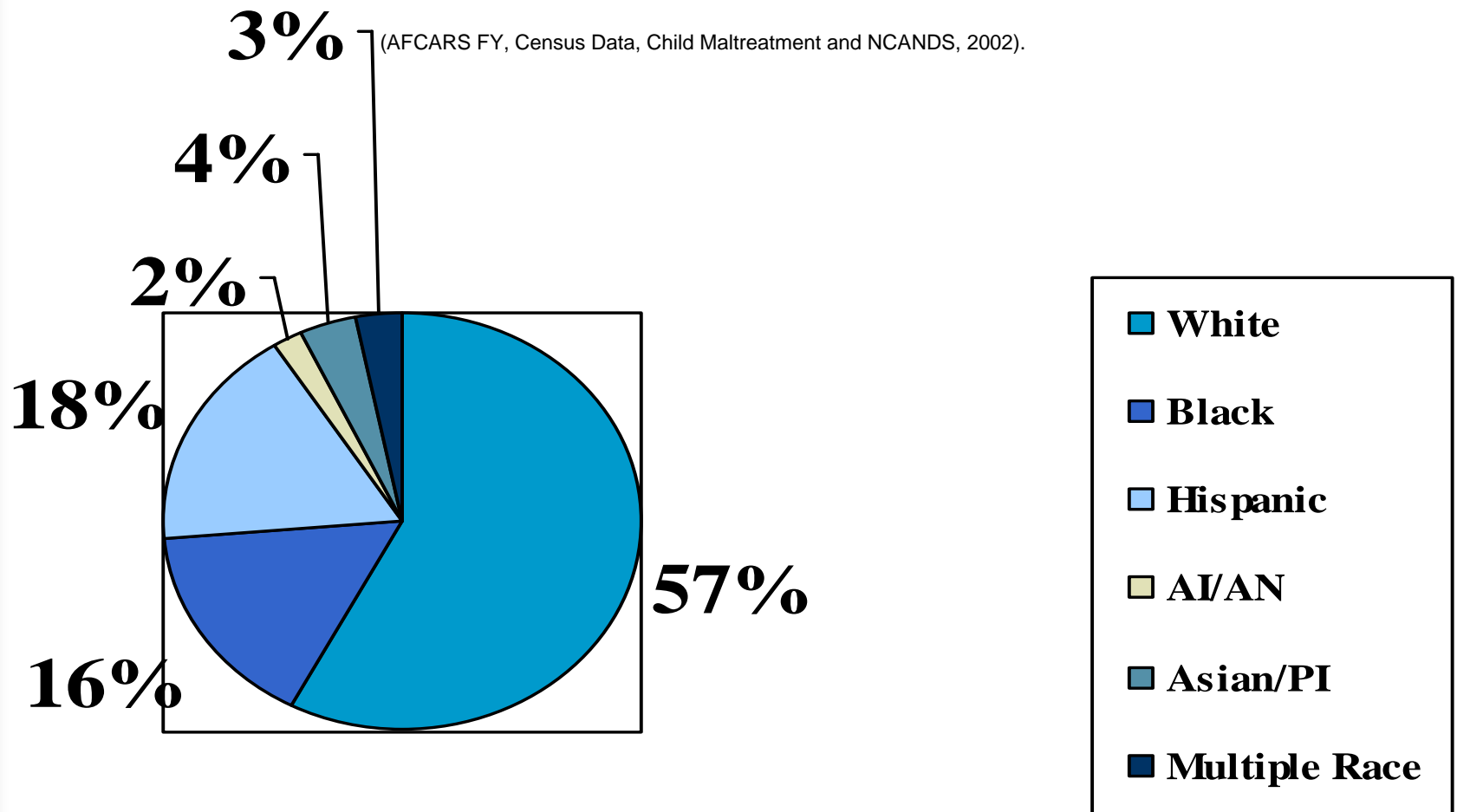


# Looking At The Numbers

5.719372  
10784.36  
9 ÷ 1

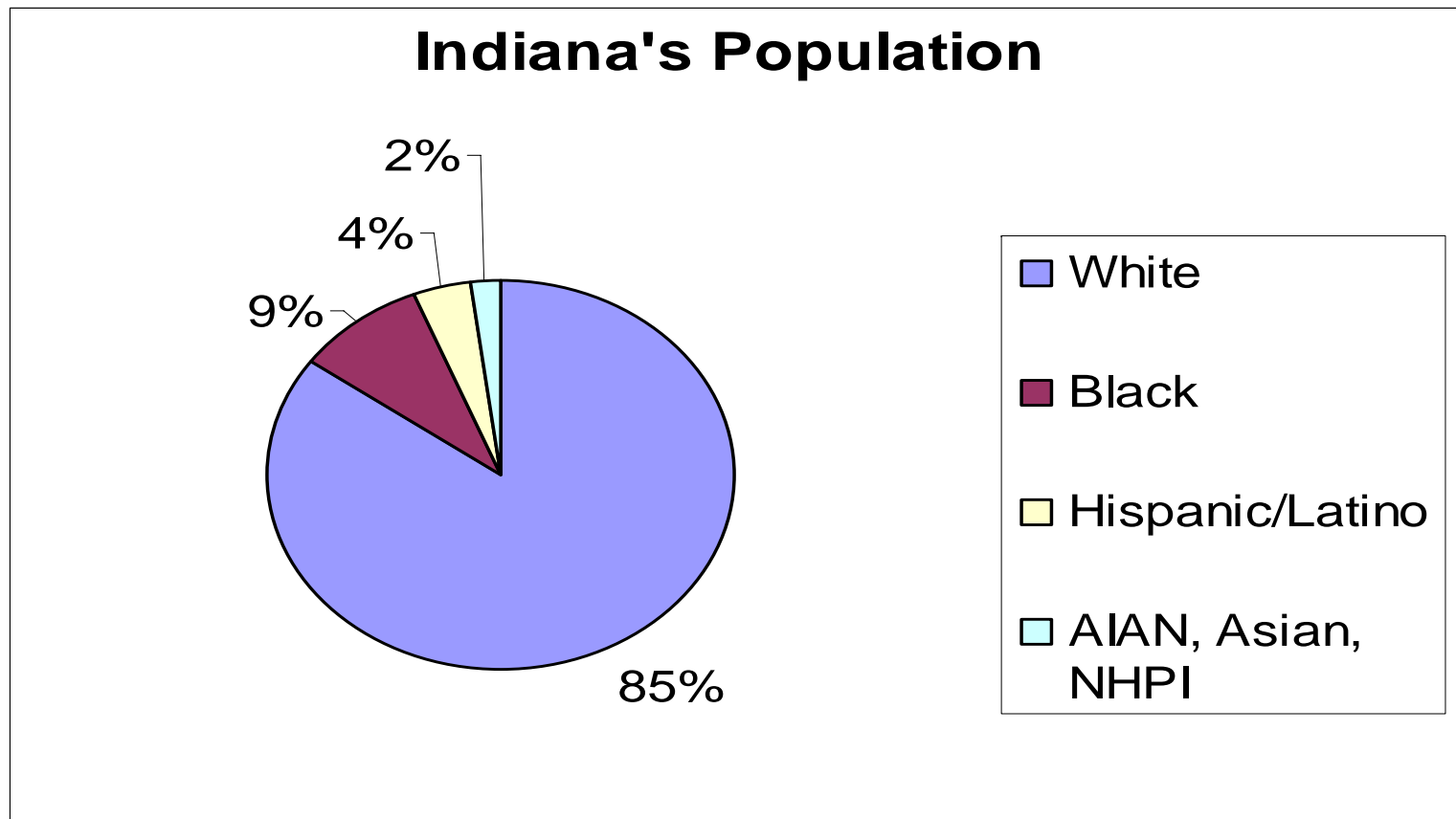
# Census Data

In 2002, the US child population was 57% White, 16% Black, 18% Hispanic, 2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 3% Multiple Race.



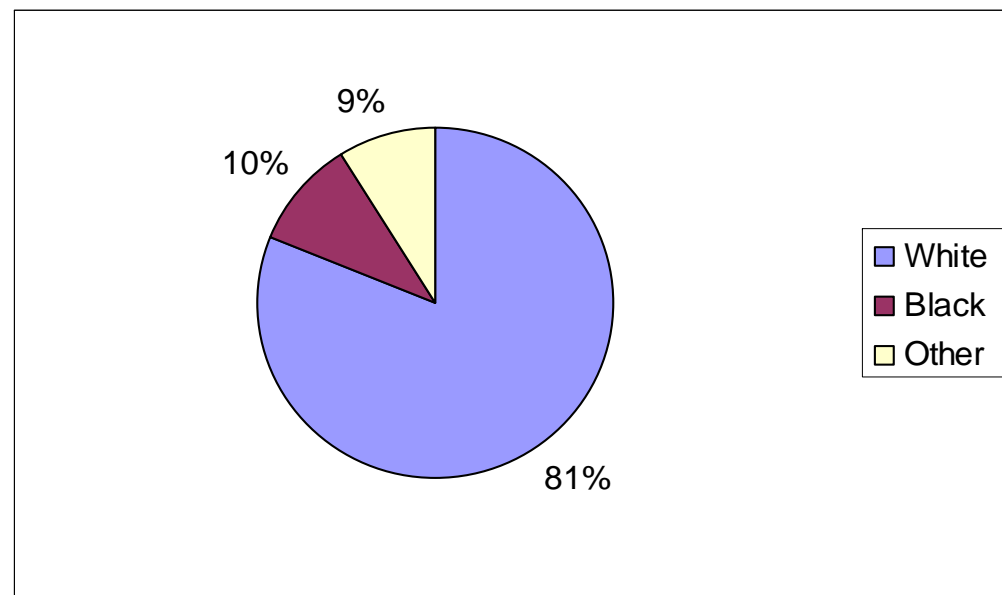
# Indiana's Population

The 2004 population estimate for the State of Indiana was 6,237,569.



# Indiana Youth Population

In 2005, Indiana Youth's population consisted of 81% White; 10% Black and 9% Other.

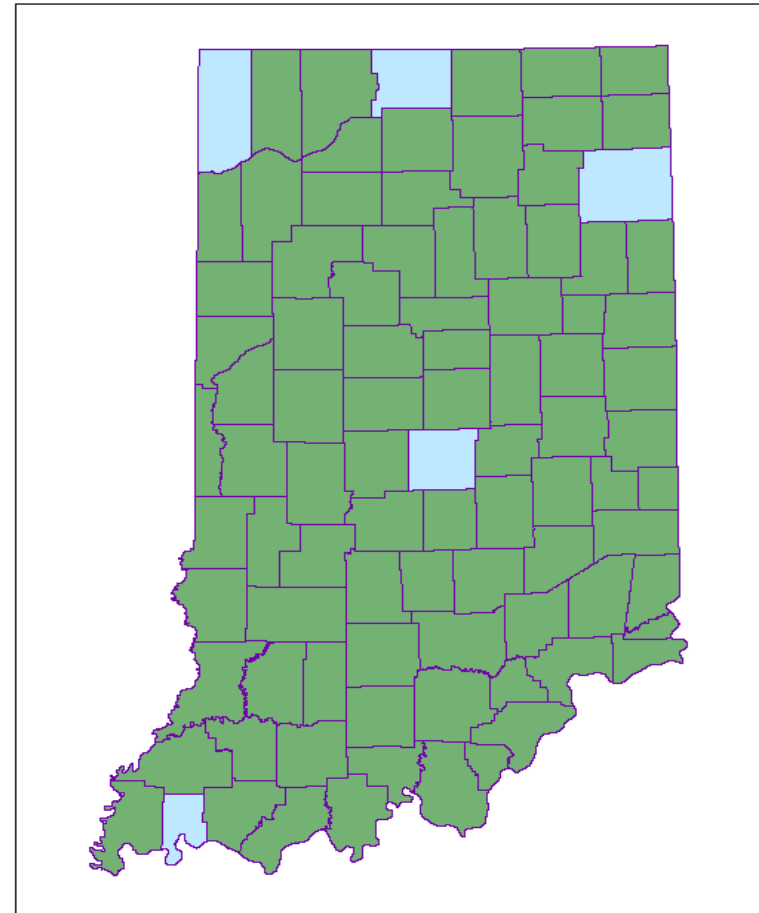


# Indiana General Population

Black Populations are concentrated in few counties:

81% of Blacks live in 5 counties: Allen, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh

81 Percent of Blacks Live in Five Counties



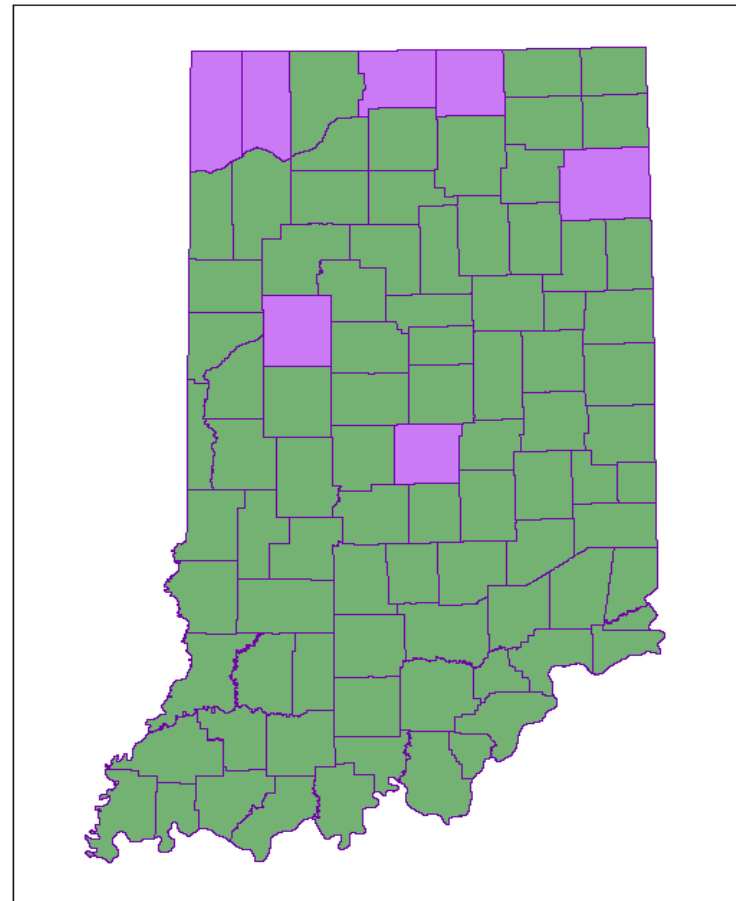


# Indiana General Population

67 Percent of Hispanics Live in Seven Counties

Hispanic Populations are concentrated in few counties:

67% of Hispanics live in 7 counties: Allen, Elkhart, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Tippecanoe





Nationally, the foster care population was 38% White, 38% Black, 15% Hispanic, 2% American Indian/Alaskan, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% Multiple Race, and 3% Unknown or unable to be determined (AFCARS FY Database, 2001).



Indiana's out-of-home care population in 2005 was made up of 55.6% White; 34.3% Black, 5.5% Hispanic, .2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.4% were other race and ethnicities Other and .3% Unknown

(Special tabulation, AFCARS by CWLA).

# Child Welfare



Out of the total 8,640 children in Indiana who were placed in out-of-home care, 5,022 were White, 3,110 of the children were Black and the remaining 518 were a combination of other races, ethnicities, and/or nationalities.

(AFCARS Database, 2001).



# Race Matters Consortium

## U.S. 2000 Data

- Three categories used to classify overrepresentation:
  - moderate (between 1.00-2.49),
  - high (2.50-3.49), and
  - extreme (3.50 and over)
- (A) 2000 Census Bureau, African American = 15.1 %; (B) 2000 AFCARS = 36.6% (% of children in foster care);
- $(B)/(A)$ , Disproportionality Rates = 2.43

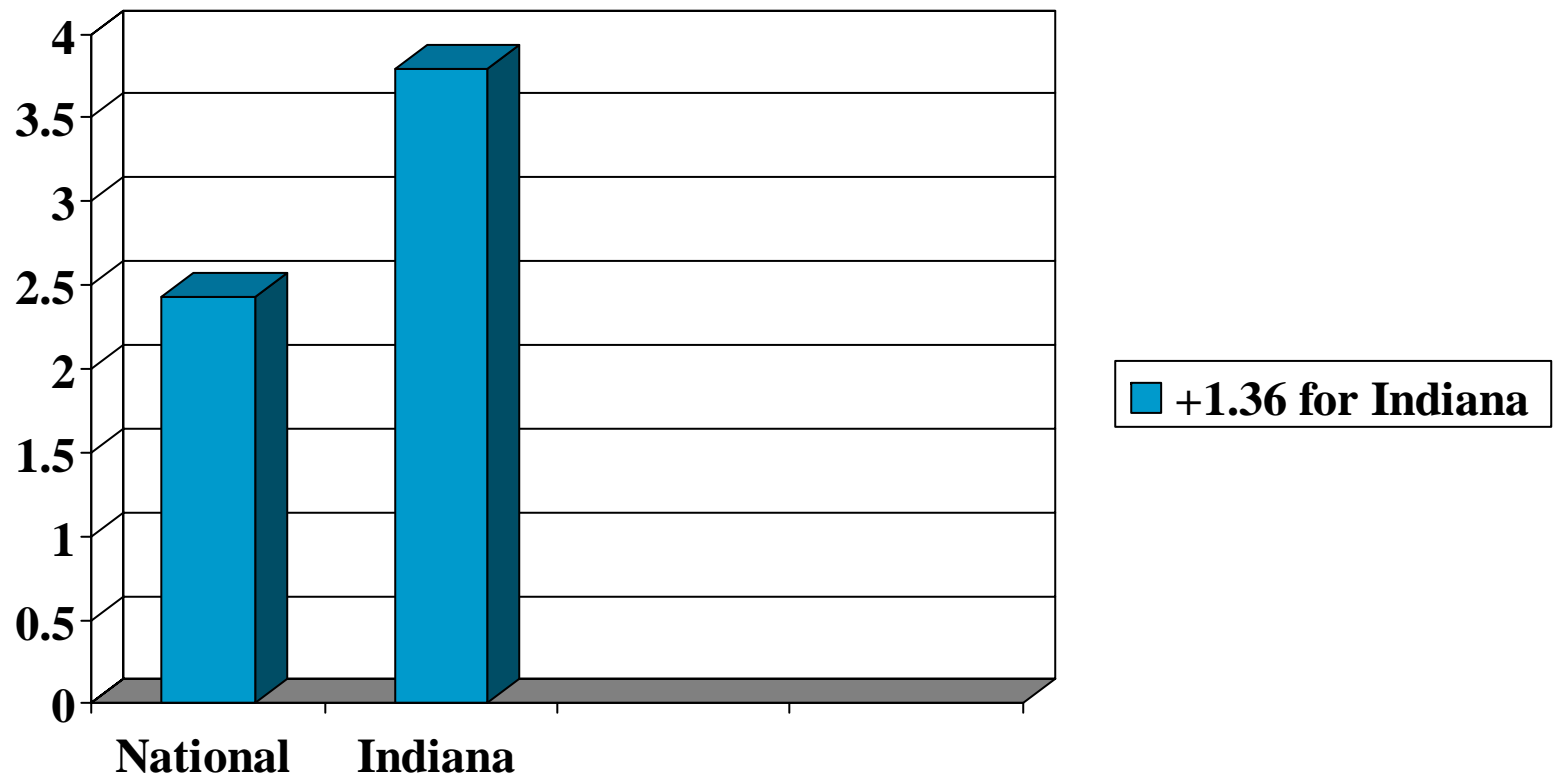


# Race Matters Consortium Indiana Data

- Indiana is one of sixteen (16) states that has been found to have “Extreme Disproportion” in Foster Care (3.50 and over is considered extreme).
- Indiana’s rate for 2000 data was 3.79

Hill, R.B. (2004). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work. Urbana-Champaign, IL: Race Matters Consortium.

# Rates Compared



# Indiana Juveniles and the Law

For Calendar Year 2004

Number of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (DOC):

1,269

Number of Juvenile Status Case Filings:

7,376

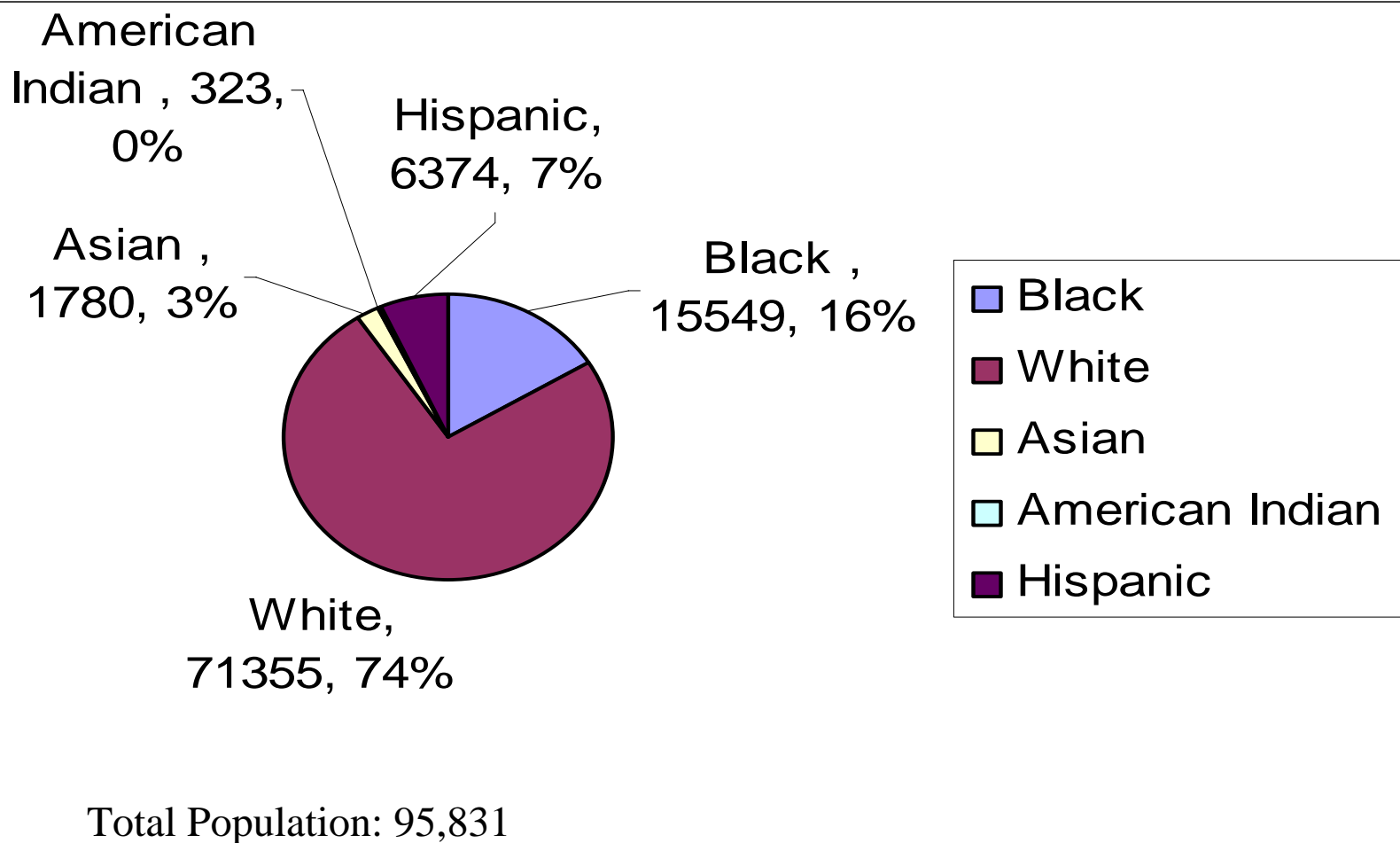
Number of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings:

25,024





# Allen County Juvenile Population 2004



Source: Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2004



# Allen County and Indiana Stats

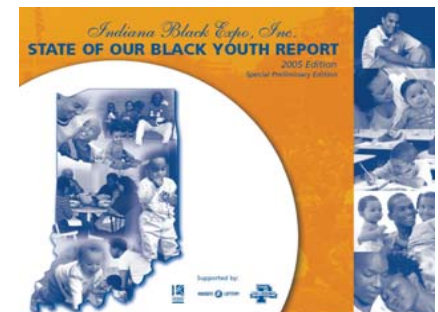
<b>All Youth</b>	<b>Allen County</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>% in Allen Co.</b>
# of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings (CY)	2,458	25,024	10%
# of Juvenile Status Case Filings (CY)	925	7,376	13%
# of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (CY)	40	1,269	32%

Source: Indiana Youth Institute. Kids Count in Indiana Database. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Youth Institute, 2001.

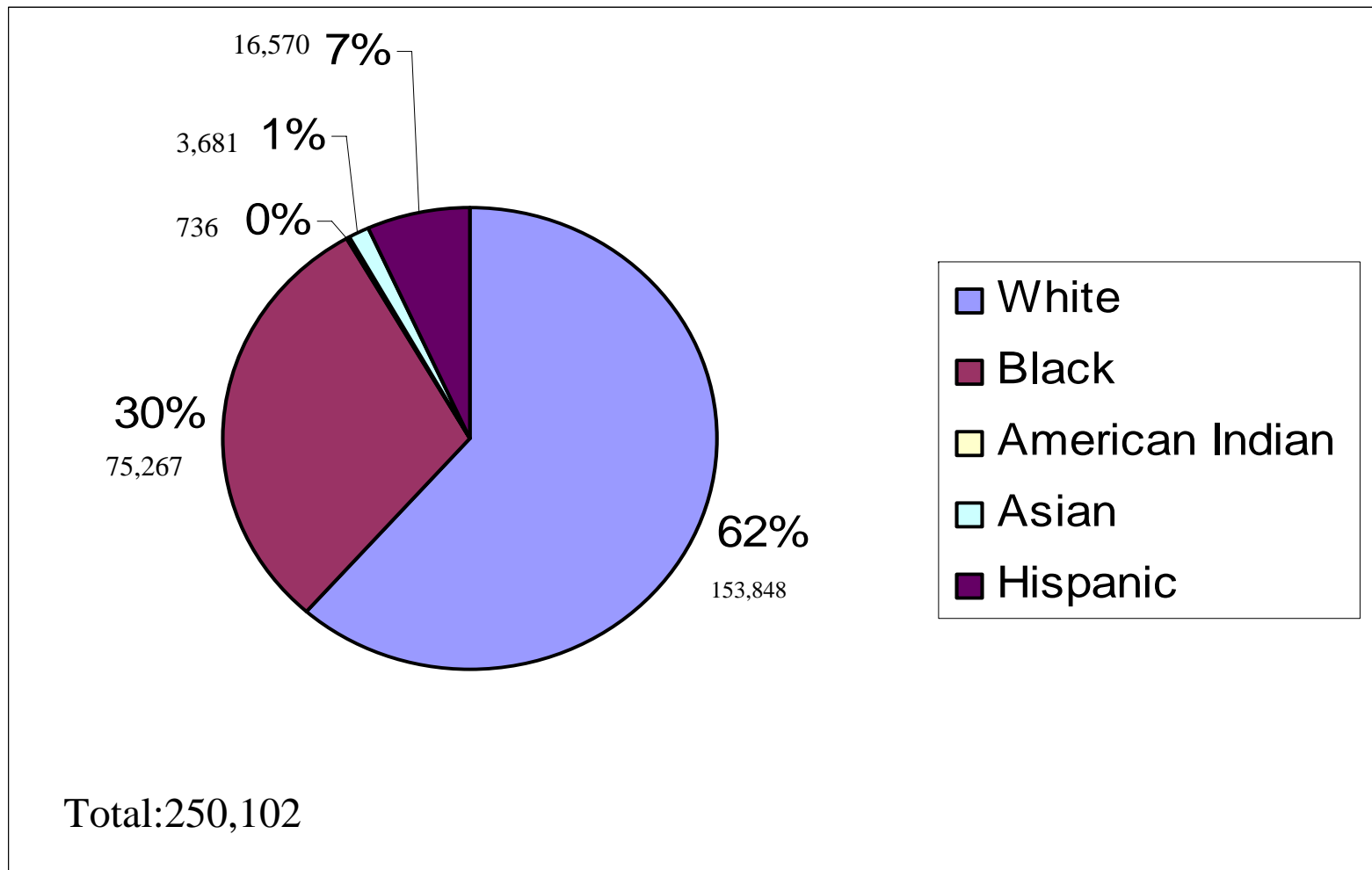
# Allen County (Ft. Wayne) by Race

<b>All Youth</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Allen County</b>	<b>% Black</b>
# of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings (CY)	1,018	2,458	41%
# of Juvenile Status Case Filings (CY)	0	925	0%
# of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (CY)	18	40	45%

Source: Indiana State of Our Black Youth Report, 2004.



# Marion County Juvenile Population 2004



Source: Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2004



# Marion County and Indiana Stats

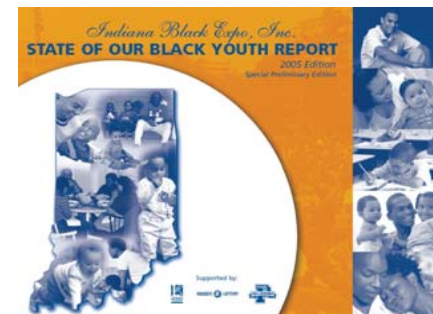
<b>All Youth</b>	<b>Marion County</b>	<b>Indiana</b>	<b>% in Marion Co.</b>
# of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings (CY)	5,132	25,024	21%
# of Juvenile Status Case Filings (CY)	1,670	7,376	23%
# of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (CY)	360	1,269	28%

Source: Indiana Youth Institute. Kids Count in Indiana Database. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Youth Institute, 2001.

# Marion County stats by RACE

Marion County Youth	Black	Total	% Black
# of Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings (CY)	3,062	5,132	60%
# of Juvenile Status Case Filings (CY)	742	1,670	44%
# of Juveniles Committed to the Department of Correction (CY)	226	360	63%

Source: Indiana Black Expo. State of Our Black Youth Report. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Black Expo, 2005.





# Recommendations

- Encourage consistent collection of data
- Increase prevention programs
- Require culturally competent practices at all levels
- Change policies and practice guidelines
- Partnering in the equity solution
- Compare Indiana efforts to other States



# What's Going on in Indiana ?

- State of Black Youth Report (SOBY) by Indiana Black Expo (IBE) Regional Initiatives
- Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) – Marion County was selected by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to be a site
- IARCCA's Outcome Measures Project
- Including DMC presentation into MSW Curriculum
- IU Center for Education and Evaluation Policy (CEEP) collaboration



# What's Going on in Indiana ?

- Children and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) – Mental Health Statewide Assessment Initiative
- Full-time DMC Coordinator at ICJI
- Collaboration efforts with Department of Education (DOE)
- Collaboration efforts with Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC)





## Next Steps ...Involve YOU !!!

- Are you aware of other possible partners?
- What are your suggestions and recommendations?
- Do you know of other entities working towards spreading awareness of DMC?
- What can you do?



*Thank You*

**Indiana Disproportionality  
Committee**

**Working together to make connections  
and find solutions.**